

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1473

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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SU': COLOMBIAN PRESS REACTION TO TLATELOLCO MTG

SUMMARY. THE REACTION OF THE BOGOTA AND MAJOR PROVINCIAL NEWS-PAPERS TO THE TLATELOLCO MTG HAS, FOR THE MOST PART BEEN ONE OF WAIT AND SEE, WITH SOME CRITICISM OF THE SECY. NEWS COVERAGE DRAWN ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, HAS BEEN MODERATE WITH NUMEROUS FRONT PAGE ITEMS IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES. EDITORIAL COVERAGE HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT LIGHTER THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. END SUMMARY

1. EDITORIAL TREATMENT OF THE MTG HAS LARGELY CHARACTERIZED THE MTG AS A GOOD BEGINNING BUT ONE THAT WILL REQUIRE MORE COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE U S IF GENUINE CHANGES IN THE LA-U S RELATIONSHIP ARE TO BE ACHIEVED. EL TIEMPO (LIBERAL, FOR EXAMPLE STATED IN A FEB 23 EDITORIAL THAT THE SECY'S REMARKS ON ARRIVAL IN MEXICO CITY INDICATED A POSITIVE BEGINNING. THE EDITORIAL THEN NOTED THAT THE SECY'S POLICY SPEECH WAS LIMITED TO THE GENERALITIES SO OFTEN HEARD BEFORE. THE WRITER HOWEVER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN DR KISSINGER AND STATED THAT LA FACED THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW ATTITUDE AND A NEW POLICY BY THE U S AND NOTED THAT AFTER

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YEARS OF "ALMOST AGGRESSIVE INDIFERENCE ON THE PART OF THE U S, THE GOVT IN WASHINGTON IS AGAIN BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT LA."

2. EL ESPECTADOR (LIBERAL) IN A FEB 23 EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZED THE SECY'S POLICY STATEMENT AS "SOMEWHAT NEBULOUS," BUT CITED AS POSITIVE POINTS THE STATEMENTS ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE NEED TO SEEK NEW ENERGY SOURCES. THERE IS, THE EDITORIAL STATED, NO COMPELLING REASON TO BE EITHER OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC.

3. LA REPUBLICA (CONSERVATIVE) ON FEB 23 CITED FONMIN VAZQUEZ' SPEECH AS "A WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF A DYNAMIC POLICY BETWEEN THE U S AND ITS NEIGHBORS..." THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT "THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MTG COULD BE THAT WE WILL DEVELOP A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN OFFER IN TERMS OF BETTER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AMONG ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD."

4. THE NEWLY-REVIVED INDEPENDENT AND SENSATIONALIST BOGOTA DAILY, EL PERIODICO, HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY NEGATIVE IN ITS COMMENTS ON THE MTG. ON FEB 23 IT CITED AS CORRECT THE "LE MONDE" ASSESSMENT OF THE CONFERENCE AS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXPRESSION OF THE U S DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS DOMINATION (OVER LA). ON FEB 25 THE SAME JOURNAL STATED THAT THE SECY HAD "SAPPED THE ENERGY OF THE FONMINS--

AND OBTAINED WHAT HE WANTED." THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE "COLONIALISTIC DEPENDENCE OF LA WAS REAFFIRMED AT TLATELOLCO. THE STUPID CONTINENT WAS VICTIMIZED ONCE AGAIN."

5. EL COLOMBIANO (CONSERVATIVE) OF MEDELLIN, IN A FEB 25 EDITORIAL, NOTED PAST DISAPPOINTMENTS BUT STATED THAT "LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE U S WILL GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO A POLCY OF HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION."

6. EL PAIS (CONSERVATIVE) OF CALI STATED ON FEB 25 THAT "THE NEW DIALOGUE THAT JUST CONCLUDED IN MEXICO ENDED WITH FEW POSITIVE RESULTS..." BUT NOTED THE EXISTENCE OF "ONE SAVING FACTOR: THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A NEW SPIRIT IN INTER AMERICAN RELATIONS FROM NOW ON."

7. NEWS COVERAGE, ALMOST ENTIRELY BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS HAS BEEN AMPLE BUT NOT PREDOMINANT. PRESENTATION HAS BEEN
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STRAIGHTFBRWARD. THE NEAREST APPROACH TO AN EDITORIAL BIAS WAS THE TREATMENT OF THE CUBAN MATTER, WHICH WAS GENERALLY HEAD-LINED AS "KISSINGER SAYS 'NO' TO CUBA." OTHER NEWS REPGRTS WERE PRESENTED LESS PROVOCATIVELY. WHITE

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